

PATENT
IBM Docket No. JP9-1999-0225

REMARKS

Status:

Claims 1 - 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by the teaching of US Pat. No. 5,068,890 to Nilssen.

Claims 1 - 8 and 11 - 13 as amended are presented for reconsideration as explained in the discussion that follows. Claims 9, 10, 14 and 15 are canceled.

Discussion:

Looking first to the Nilssen teaching, it appears that the only showing of a computer terminal (CT of Figs. 4B and 7) is hard-wired for information signals (SCC). And, the ceiling antenna (RTA2) is connected to the power line at its own socket and does not provide a socket connection for a ceiling lamp so that it can be interposed at a normal lamp power socket without losing a lamp position. Moreover, the antenna RTA2 is shown to be for phone use.

At Nilssen's Fig. 4A, an antenna (RTA1) is shown projecting from lamp fixture LF1. It is connected to signal transceiver means (STM1) mounted in the fixture LF1 and specially connected to cable BSPCM1. This, unlike Applicant's power and lamp connecting sections, requires a custom light fixture. Indeed, as is seen in Nilssen's Fig. 5, even the wiring in the walls is custom and signals are carried on separate wires.

Applicant, on the other hand, has recognized that, the low interference advantage of ceiling mounted wireless connections for computers is achieved with no rewiring by so interposing a power and signal tap connection between a ceiling lamp and its power socket that it may be reconnected essentially as if to its normal power socket. This is achieved by interposing a connector that connects like the ceiling lamp to the power socket and on an opposing side connects like the power socket to the ceiling lamp.

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In a preferred embodiment, multiple such interposed wireless communicators are used in a system and communicate among themselves over the power line. Computer terminals located in the wireless connection zones of the communicator apparatus are thus connected into a network.

Claims 1 - 8 and 11 - 13 have been amended to more strongly emphasize the interposition of opposed sections that cooperate with the lamp and socket connection to retain lamp function while adding a powered wireless communicator for a wireless computer network. Certain of the claims (7 and 11) further emphasize the use of the power line for signals in order to network between the communicators already connected thereto by Applicant's connector, this to retrofit a lighting system to support computer terminal networking with multiple wireless zones.

As a further refinement certain claims (6 and 13) further emphasize the use of the computer network according to the invention to turn the lamp on and off.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is believed that this case has been placed in condition for allowance; and, early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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